



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Survey of Virginia Farmers To Begin Soon

Richmond, May 5—An interviewer from the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service (VASS) will contact some local farmers during June and the first half of July, to ask them to take part in a nationwide survey of American agriculture.

As a primary source of agricultural information, this survey is one of the largest and most important conducted by VASS. The resulting information will be used to make reliable State, regional, and national estimates of crop acreage, grain stocks, and livestock inventories.

This survey is particularly vital. It will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major crops for 2000. Producers themselves rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Congresspersons and government agencies use the information to produce better regulations and farm programs. Industry analysts, extension agents, farm organizations, and agricultural lenders also use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

“Participating in the survey to ensure that local agriculture is accurately portrayed is important for Virginia farmers,” said Steven Manheimer, State Statistician for VASS. “We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses,” “Data about individual operations are combined with information from other producers and published at the State and National level.”

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/va or call 1-800-772-0670.

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